



THE ROLE OF SANITATION SCHEMES FOR REDUCING OPEN DEFECATION IN SIMLAPAL BLOCK, BANKURA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

In view of reducing the high rate of open defecation, Government of India has adopted various schemes to reduce health hazards regarding open defecation as well as to increase awareness; Those are- Central Rural Sanitation Programme (1986), Total Sanitation Campaign (1999), Nirmal Gram Puraskar (2003), Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (2012), and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (2014). Unfortunately, the campaigns have achieved limited success in changing the open defecation behavior of the Indian population.

At Simlapal C.D. Block, an average of 10 percent of households have been covered under *Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)* (Gramin) scheme. The level of utility of toilets is very low throughout the study area.

KEYWORDS: Open Defecation, *Swachh Bharat Mission*, Simlapal C.D. Block

INTRODUCTION

India has widespread open defecation rates due to high population density, poverty, low literacy rate as well as unavailability of toilets in premises, besides this in rural India, beliefs, values, and norms about purity, pollution, caste and untouchability compel people to reject affordable latrines (Coffey et al., 2017; Kumar, 2017). Open defecation is directly related to several health hazards and also causes unnecessary expenditure on health purposes and loss of income as productive days are wasted due to illness (Beyene et al., 2015; Dhaktode, 2014; Gupta & Pal, 2008). In rural India, due to scarcity of drinking water and improper sanitation people are suffering from innumerable deadly diseases. The environment and vulnerable populations such as persons with disability, women as well as the aged population are being affected due to this reason. Sometimes, women are exposed to sexual violence (Agoramoorthy & Hsu, 2009; Jadhav et al., 2016; Kulkarni et al., 2017; Kumar, 2015; Sharma et al., 2015). Keeping the importance of sanitation, in 1954, the rural sanitation program was established as a part of the First Five Years Plan of Indian Government. According to the Census data, the total coverage of rural sanitation was only 1% Central Rural Sanitation Programme was introduced by the Government of India in 1986 with the motto of improving the quality of a bucolic lifestyle as well as providing safety and privacy to women (Government of India, 2014a). The mission could not achieve success due to a lack of community participation and the rate of the average annual increase in the rural sanitation coverage is very low only one percent. The utilization level of toilets constructed under the scheme is also very low. In 1999, CRSP (1986) adopted a “demand-driven” approach, namely “Total Sanitation Campaign” (TSC). The revised sanitation approach put emphasized more on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities, particularly for increasing awareness among the rural people and increasing demand for sanitary facilities. To ensure better health and quality of life for people of rural India, The Government of India has been launched in October 2003, an award-based incentive scheme for fully sanitized and open defecation-free Gram Panchayats, Blocks, Districts and States called “Nirmal Gram Puraskar” (NGP) (Government of India, 2012b). The “Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA)” was launched in 2012, which was the successor program of the TSC.

On 2nd October 2014, the Prime Minister of India launched the “Swachh Bharat Mission”, to attain universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on sanitation, particularly to make India clean. There are two sub-missions, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), which aim to achieve *Swachh Bharat* (clean India) by 2019. This mission is significant because it promotes personal hygiene among the people (Government of India, 2014a, 2014b, 2017).

Study Area

The study area, Simlapal C.D. Block is situated under the jurisdiction of Bankura District in West Bengal, India (Map No. 3.1), lies between 22°50' and 23°04' North latitudes and 86°56' and 87°40' East longitudes. The C.D. Block consists of seven Gram Panchayats (G.P.), (namely- Parsola, Laxmisagar, Bikrampur, Machatora, Simlapal, Dubrajpur and Mandalgram) with 203 mouzas, out of which 185 inhabited rural mouzas, 17 uninhabited mouzas and one Census Town (C.T.). The C.D. Block covers 310.2 square kilometers geographical area and comprises 29386 households with a total population of 143038, of which 73008 are male and 70030 are female.

Data Source

The research study has been done mainly by primary data, by collecting responses from 8177 sample households, which have been selected from 185 mouzas of seven G.P.s of the C.D. Block.

Methods

The households have been selected through Stratified Random Sampling and Snowball sampling. After the declaration of the block as Open Defecation Free, a new survey has been conducted to check the status of using toilets and the rate of open defecation. Again, there are 37 mouzas have been taken into consideration as those mouzas are previously recorded as fully open defecation mouzas (100%).

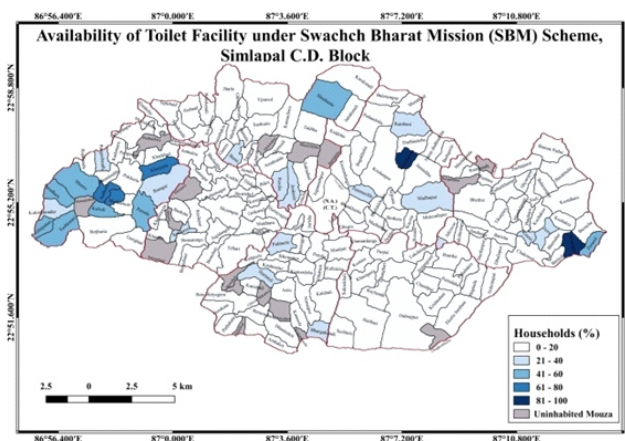
Result and Discussion

The important sanitation-related schemes, running in the study area are, - Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) (Gramin) or Mission Nirmal Bangla (MNB), and Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA).

The Role of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) (Gramin)

In Simlapal C.D. Block, an average of 10 percent of households have been covered under *Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)* (Gramin) scheme. Parsola G.P. has the highest toilet coverage (25.35%) under the scheme; followed by Simlapal G.P. (11.62%), Mandalgram G.P. (10.84%), Bikrampur G.P. (7.14%), Laxmisagar G.P. (6.13%) and Machatora G.P. (4.75%). The lowest toilet coverage under the scheme has been found at Dubrajpur G.P. (4.21%).

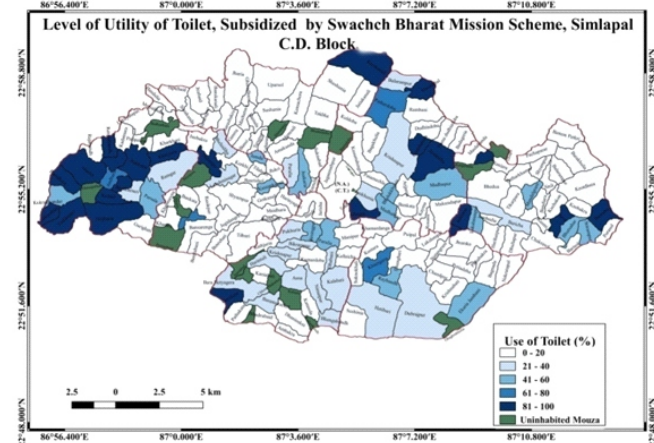
The mouza level study shows that there are 100 percent toilet coverage has been found at two mouzas, namely- Godabahara (Simlapal G.P.) and Srirampur mouza (Mandalgram G.P.). There are three mouzas rank between 61 to 80 percentage of toilet cover under the SBM scheme. It has been found that there are seven mouzas of the C.D. Block rank under the 41 to 60 percent zone, whereas 17 mouzas rank 20 to 40 percent zone and 77 mouzas rank below 20 percent toilet cover under the scheme. There are 79 mouzas, where no toilet facility under the SBM scheme has been found in the C.D. Block (Map No. 1).



Map No. 1: Availability of Toilet Facility under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Scheme, Simlapal C.D. Block

Level of Utility of Toilet under SBM Scheme

The level of utility has been measured by taking the percentage of toilets that have been used for the particular mouzas. It is very essential to note that, under the SBM scheme, a very small percentage of toilets have been used (21.77%) throughout the study area. There are 17 mouzas, where all the toilets (100 percent), made in this scheme have been used. The usage of toilets between 50 to 90 percent has been observed in 23 mouzas. The toilet uses are 10 to 43 percent for 29 mouzas under this scheme. There are remaining 37 mouzas, where a toilet has been made under the SBM scheme, but no toilet has been used (Map No. 2).



Map No. 2: Level of Utility of Toilet, Subsidized by Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Scheme, Simlapal C.D. Block

The Role of Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA)

In Simlapal C.D. Block, there are very small percentages (only 1.93%) of the toilet have been made under *Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan* (NBA) scheme. At G.P. level analysis, it has been found that under this scheme highest percentages of toilets have been made at Machatora G.P. (7.49%). Dubrajpur G.P. ranks in the second position (5.81%), followed by Bikrampur G.P. (0.72%), Mandalgram G.P. (0.35%), and Laxmisagar G.P. (0.27%). At Parsola G.P. and Simlapal G.P., no toilet has been set up under this scheme.

At mouza level study shows that there are total of 32 mouzas (out of 185 mouzas) have toilet facilities under the NBA scheme. The highest percentage of toilets covered under the NBA scheme has been found at Taldiha mouza (45.45%) of Machatora G.P., there are 13 mouzas out of total of 185 mouzas where the availability of toilet facilities under this scheme is 10 to 45 percent and 18 mouzas have below than ten percent of toilet coverage. There are 153 mouzas, where no toilet has been built under this scheme (Figure 1).

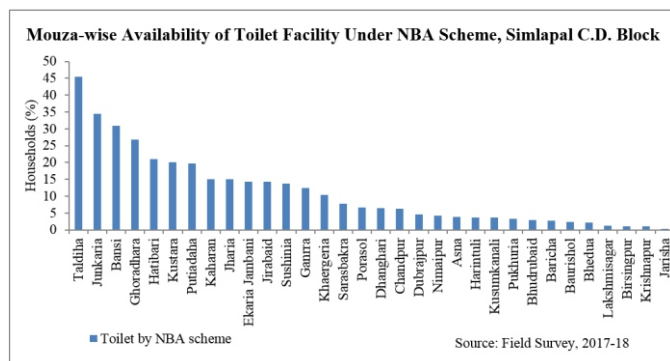


Figure 1: Mouza-wise Availability of Toilet Facility under NBA Scheme, Simlapal C.D. Block

Level of Utility of Toilet under NBA scheme

From the study, it has been found that the availability of toilet facility does not always mean that toilet is being used always. The level of utility shows that, it has been found highest at Bhedua mouza of Mandalgram G.P., where 50% toilet of total toilet under the NBA scheme has been used, followed by Ganrra mouza (40%) and Ghoradhara mouza (40%) of Machatora G.P. The lowest percentage of the toilet (to the total availability of toilet under NBA) has been used (12.5%) under this scheme is at Pukhuria mouza of Bikrampur G.P. There are 13 mouzas out of 32 mouzas where toilets have been made under NBA scheme, but no one has been used. The level of utility of toilets under the NBA scheme has been shown in Figure 2.

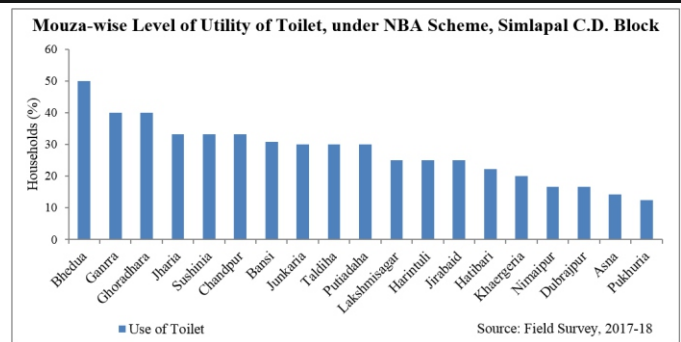
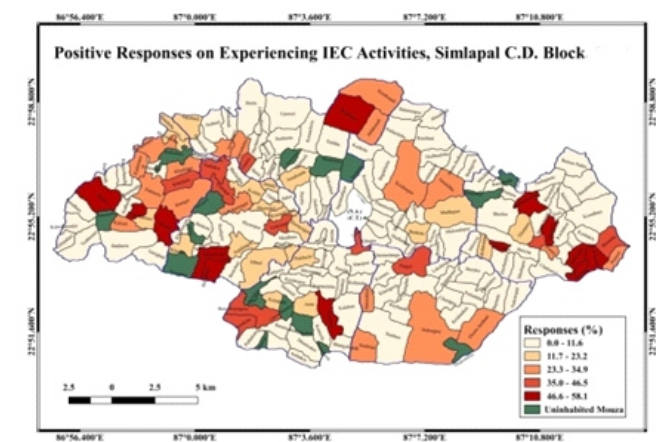


Figure 2: Mouza-wise Level of Utility of Toilet, under NBA Scheme, Simlapal C.D. Block

Toilet under Other Scheme

In the study area, no toilet has been found within the surveyed households under other schemes (such as Central Rural Sanitation Programme, Total Sanitation Campaign, Nirmal Gram Puraskar) taken by Government of India.

Responses on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Activities



Map No. 3: Responses on Experiencing IEC Activities, Simlapal C.D. Block

The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) not only builds toilets but also aims to change the mind of people in case of adopting better sanitation. A query has been raised, during the field survey, whether the people have experienced any mode of IEC activities on sanitation program or not. The programs include a film show, exhibition, poster, drama/song/dance performance, puppet show, group meeting etc. The average responses to experienced IEC activities positively in Simlapal C.D. Block are observed very low (12.57%). At mouza level analysis, it has been observed that the highest responses on experiencing IEC activities have been found at Bhutsahar mouza (58.09%) of Mandalgram G.P., followed by Mamra mouza (57.14%) of Parsola G.P., Patharkhamar mouza (56.71%) of Mandalgram G.P. the lowest responses in this regards has been noticed at Parulia mouza (1.20%) of Bikrampur G.P. there are 79 mouzas of the C.D. Block, where no one is experienced on IEC activities (Map No. 3).

Open Defecation Free (ODF) Declaration

The C.D. Block was declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF) in March 2019. After the declaration of ODF, a new survey has been conducted to check the status of using toilets and the rate of open defecation. In this survey, 37 mouzas have been taken into consideration as previously those mouzas are recorded as fully open defecation mouzas (100%). The result of this survey shows that, though the Block has been declared as ODF, there is still continuing open defecation.

Table 1: Details of Resurveyed Sample Households (G.P. -wise)		
Name of G.P.	No. of Mouzas	Total Sample Households Resurveyed
Parsola	5	40
Laxmisagar	3	78
Bikrampur	6	291
Machatora	3	44
Simlapal	3	37
Dubrajpur	2	32
Mandalgram	15	343
Simlapal C.D. Block	37	Total = 865

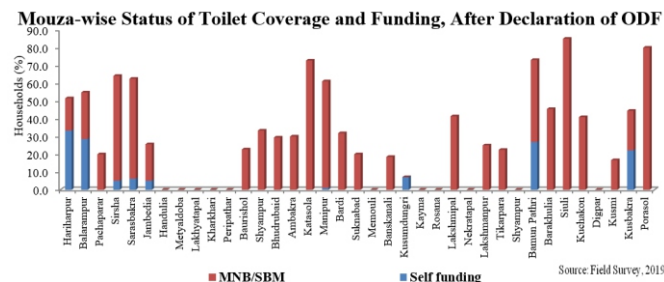
Source: Field Survey, 2019

Status of Toilet Coverage and Funding of Toilet after Declaration ODF

From the fresh survey of 37 mouzas of Simlapal C.D. Block, it has been observed that the average toilet coverage has been reached to 29.18%. Of 3.67% have been constructed by self-funding and the remaining 25.51% of toilets have been made

by Mission Nirmal Bangla (MNB) project. The highest rate of toilet coverage (85%) has been found at Siuli mouza (Mandalgram G.P.) by the MNB scheme. Porasol mouza of Mandalgram G.P. ranks second in the list (80% toilet coverage) by the MNB scheme. The lowest toilet coverage (7.14%) has been found at Kusumdungri mouza (Simlatal G.P.), the toilet has been built by self-funding. The highest toilet coverage by self-funding has been found at Hariharpur mouza (33.33%) of Mandalgram G.P., followed by Balarampur mouza (28.57%) of Mandalgram G.P. There are no toilets have been found within 11 mouzas of different G.P. of the C.D. Block, even after the declaration of ODF. Those are - six mouzas of Parsola G.P. (Handulia, Metyaldoba, Lakhyatapal, Kharkhari, Peripathar and Memouli), two mouzas of Simlatal G.P. (Kayma and Rosana mouza), one mouza (Nekratapal) from Dubrajpur G.P. and two mouzas of Mandalgram G.P. (Shyampur, Barakhulia, Digpar and Kusmi) (Figure 3).

Usages of Toilets after Declaration of ODF



The most astonishing fact is that the rate of using toilets is still 2.6 % at 37 mouzas of Simlatal C.D. Block., even after the declaration of ODF areas. The highest percentage of toilets have been used at Hariharpur mouza (33.3%) followed by Balarampur mouza (23.8%) of Mandalgram G.P. and the lowest percentage of toilet use has been recorded at Jambedia mouza (5.1%) of Mandalgram G.P. Toilets of rest 31 mouzas are remain unused (Figure 4).

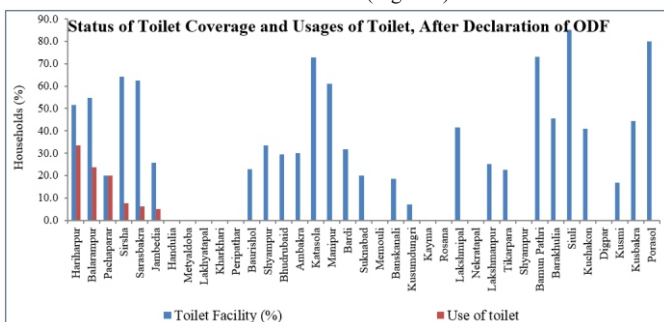


Figure 4: Mouza-wise Status of Toilet Coverage and Usages of Toilet, After Declaration of ODF, Simlatal C.D. Block

Level of Success or Failure of the Schemes

From the above analysis, it can be said that the overall sanitation status is in very poor condition. Out of 37 mouzas of the block, 31 mouzas have been again recorded as under fully open defecation (100%), even after the declaration of ODF (Figure 5).

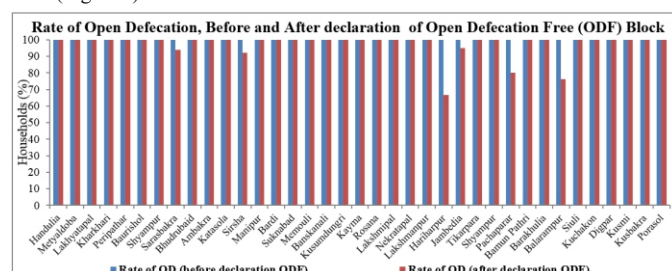


Figure 5: Mouza-wise Status of Open Defecation, before and after Declaration of ODF, Simlatal C.D. Block

Block. At Sarasbakra mouza (Laxmisagar G.P.) the rate of open defecation has been decreased to 93.75%, at Sirsha mouza (Bikrampur G.P.), it has been decreased to 92.31%, at Jambedia mouza, Balarampur mouza, Hariharpur mouza, and Pachaparar mouza (Mandalgram G.P.), the rate of open defecation decreased to 94.87%, 76.19%, 66.67%, and 20.00% respectively (Table 2).

Table 2: Decreasing Rate of Open Defecation, after Declaration of ODF

Mouza	Rate of OD (before declaration ODF)	Rate of OD (after declaration ODF)	Decreasing Rate of OD (%)
Sarasbakra	100	93.8	6.3
Sirsha	100	92.3	7.7
Hariharpur	100	66.7	33.3
Jambedia	100	94.9	5.1
Pachaparar	100	80.0	20.0
Balarampur	100	76.2	23.8

Source: Field Survey, 2019

It is important to note that, though the block has been declared open defecation free, it is a challenge to eradicate open defecation and for ensuring proper sanitation for all.

CONCLUSION

Sanitation is considered an important determinant of the health condition of any country. Therefore, due to the huge population burden, India needs sanitary awakening to a large extent. Various initiatives have been taken by the Government of India to reduce the rate of open defecation. But the availability of toilet facilities under such a scheme is relatively low for the study area. The level of utility of such toilets has been recorded as very low, and the rate of open defecation is very high, even after the declaration of Open Defecation Free (ODF) C.D. Block. It is also important that the policy-makers should concentrate on the required elements to ensure the steady decline of open defecation and retain its long-term benefits (Orgill-Meyer et al., 2019).

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